



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-14 CIAE-00 OODE-00 PH-07
H-01 INR-10 L-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSG-00 ICAE-00 INDE-00 HA-06 SR-04 RP-10
AID-07 SWS-01 ADS-00 /115 H

-----100450 261137Z /21

O 261104Z OCT 00 ZPP-4

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC RIACT IMMEDIATE 1030

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USRATO IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SACCA

AMEMBASSY JIBRA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 11030

CINCPAC FOR POLAO

E O 12065 DOS 10/26/06 LORTON, RONALD D. OR-P

TAB: PK AF UR PDRN HOPS SREF

SUBJECT: (U) CASUALTIES IN HELICOPTER ATTACK ON AFGHNS
REFUGEE CAMP

REF: ISLAMABAD 10906

1. (C) - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. WE ARE TRYING TO PIECE TOGETHER VARIOUS ACCOUNTS

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REPORTING CASUALTIES IN THE OCTOBER 24 HELICOPTER ATTACK ON A REFUGEE CAMP IN NORTH WAZIRISTAN (SEE REFTEL). THE ONLY THING THAT IS CLEAR IS THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION OVER EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.

3. OCTOBER 26 LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THERE HAD BEEN THREE PEOPLE INJURED IN THE ATTACK BY MI-24 HELICOPTER GUNS.

CONFIRMED THIS INFORMATION, ADDING THAT ONE OF THOSE INJURED WAS A CHILD AND CLAIMING THAT NONE WERE HURT SERIOUSLY.

CORRECTED HIS EARLIER ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT TO SAY THAT A PAKISTANI FRONTIER POST FIRED ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS AT THE COPTERS AS THEY WITHDREW TO AFGHANISTAN WITH NO APPARENT EFFECT.

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4. AMCONSUL PESHAWAR REPORTS THAT THE COPTERS ATTACKED THREE SEPARATE LOCATIONS IN NORTH WAZIRISTAN, INCLUDING A REFUGEE CAMP LOCATED AT ZACHINA. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO OUR CONSULATE, THE THREE INDIVIDUALS INJURED WERE ALL PAKISTANI NATIONALS, ONE INCURRING SERIOUS WOUNDS, ONE MINOR INJURIES AND ONE TREATED LOCALLY.

5. [] SOURCE, HOWEVER, CLAIMED HE HAD REPORTS THAT FOUR PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK WHICH HE SAID TOOK PLACE IN THE GENERAL AREA OF TWO DIFFERENT REFUGEE ENCAMPMENTS LOCATED FOUR MILES (GUDATHAWALI) AND NINE-TEN MILES (GHAR KHAN-KHAR) INSIDE PAKISTANI TERRITORY RESPECTIVELY. (INVESTIGATING FURTHER AND HAVE PROMISED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. HE UNDERSTANDS [] HERE INTENDS TO RAISE
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MATTER WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR SMIRNOV.

6. ALSO OF INTEREST ARE OBSERVATIONS

WHO SAW CONTINUING INCIDENTS OF THIS SORT AS HAVING A POTENTIAL TO ERODE POPULAR SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT ZIA UL-HAQ'S MARTIAL LAW REGIME. / THAT IF THE GOP CANNOT SHOW THAT IT CAN ADEQUATELY DEFEND AGAINST ATTACKS ON ITS BORDER POSTS AND REFUGEE CAMPS THERE IS A DANGER THAT PAKISTANIS WOULD TAKE TO THE STREETS AGAINST ZIA. / IT WAS CLEAR, WAS TAILORING HIS PRESENTATION

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TO SUPPORT A PITCH FOR U.S. ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN, BUT HIS INFORMED VIEWS ARE NONETHELESS SIGNIFICANT IN THE MUPP CONTEXT.

7. IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE WE CAN SORT ALL THIS OUT, MORE ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF THE REMOTENESS OF NORTH WAZIRISTAN AND THE DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING FIRST-HAND INFORMATION. WE WILL NONETHELESS CONTINUE DIGGING WITH A VIEW TO GETTING A CLEARER VIEW OF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.

8. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. MUMMEL

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